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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 3, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 27 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 4.9 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 39 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 683 billion ton-miles, 0.9 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 27 totaled 451,308 cars, 8.6 percent below 1979, and 0.2 percent below the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 13.6 percent in the East, 1.4 percent in the South, and 9.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 3,062 cars, or 2.7 percent; and grain showed an increase of 2,803 cars, or 9.4 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 20 totaled 33,435 cars, down 15.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 59,258 trailers and/or containers, 14.9 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 38 weeks of the year was 1,213,342 cars, 10.7 percent lower than last year, and 2,208,534 trailers and/or containers, down 7.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/27/80:

	Loadings in Week ended September 27, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	32,507 I	2,803	9.4	D 674	2.0
Other farm products	4,415 I	792	21.9	I 156	3.7
Metallic ores	26,906 D	11,314	29.6	D 1,359	4.8
Coal	116,609 I	3,062	2.7	D 2,616	2.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,976 D	3,754	20.0	D 643	4.1
Nonmetallic minerals	15,946 I	197	1.3	D 316	1.9
Grain mill products	17,738 D	660	3.6	I 214	1.2
Food and kindred products	18,992 D	999	5.0	I 245	1.3
Primary forest products	19,256 D	1,423	6.9	I 231	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,390 D	3,154	25.1	I 68	0.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,603 D	1,559	6.7	I 956	4.6
Chemicals and allied products	27,134 D	2,508	8.5	I 400	1.5
Petroleum products	5,445 D	802	12.8	D 143	2.6
Stone, clay and glass products	16,449 D	2,739	14.3	I 441	2.8
Coke	4,019 D	2,111	34.4	D 289	6.7
Metals and products	15,580 D	3,824	19.7	I 729	4.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,461 D	4,628	21.0	I 527	3.1
Waste and scrap materials	12,023 D	2,140	15.1	D 452	3.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,485 D	2,358	17.0	I 410	3.7
All other carloads	43,126 D	5,156	10.7	I 1,404	3.4
LCL traffic	248 D	200	44.6	D 16	6.1
Total Cars Loaded	451,308 D	42,475	8.6	D 727	0.2
Corresponding week of 1979	493,783				

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (39 weeks)	16,943,567	17,913,398	D	5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
38 weeks cumulative	665.4	658.1	I	1.1
Week ended September 27	17.9	18.8	D	4.9
39 weeks cumulative	683.3	676.9	I	0.9

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